

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, November 9, 2015

Location: J. C. Solmonese Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mr. Daniel Sheedy, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Absent: Chairman Andrew Mackie, Mrs. Valerie Desmond. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representative Daniel Gao.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

Student Representative Update:

Senior Daniel Gao updated the Committee on current activities.

- Annual semi-formal dance hosted by the French/Spanish Honor Societies November 10th
- Honor Society inductions on Thursday, November 12th
- Student Council field trip to see inspirational speaker Mike Smith on November 18th
- Student Council dodgeball fundraiser on November 20th
- National Honor Society trivia night fundraiser on November 24th

J. C. Solmonese School Update – Mrs. Riitta Bolton, Staff and Students:

Principal Bolton reviewed new programs and new technology added this year. Unit leaders from both JCS and LGN have plans to meet together in the near future. High School honor society tutors will be helping with math and English. A representative of the Solmonese Parent Organization informed the Committee of many activities and fundraisers the group is involved with, such as Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom, flamingo flocks, fall festival, Halloween parade float, book fair, and the Harlem Wizards on November 16th. Funds raised have been used to offset the fees for field trips, enrichment programs for the school, and new rugs for all the classrooms.

Third grade students made a presentation of their recent service project, Socktober sock drive, for which they collected 521 pairs of new socks throughout the district.

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta read students' biographies and presented certificates to students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers.

Academic Growth and Student Leadership In Learning Award: Robert Trudeau, Louis Dion III
Superintendent's Award of Excellence: Caroline Golota
MA Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award: Cassandra Phillips

DECA Presentation and Vote to Approve Student Attendance at District and State Conferences – Mrs. Heather Albritton and Students:

Mrs. Albritton and students from the DECA Club were present to request permission to attend upcoming events. The district competition will be held the first week of January in Quincy and the state competition will be held in March at the Boston Copley Marriott. Over 40 new members have joined, and the group is conducting a fundraiser so all who wish to may attend.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the request to attend upcoming competitions

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

Vote to Approve Student Attendance at Student Council Conference – Mrs. Melissa Beck and Students:

NHS Student Council is requesting permission to attend the annual overnight conference in Hyannis. Massachusetts Association of Student Councils annual conference will be held on March 9-11 this year. Advisor Melissa Beck explained the structured events and workshops. The students will be well chaperoned. Fundraiser events have been held to help defray the cost.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the Student Council's request to attend the conference

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

Technology Update – Mrs. Karen Winsper:

Mrs. Winsper reviewed the new additions to the district which include numerous Chrome Books, iPads, and 3D printers. Several staff members receive a stipend to serve as teacher tech liaisons. The district has also converted to G-mail, and the high school has a TV Video 2 class. She has also introduced the new "School Brains" student information program. The Committee praised Mrs. Winsper for her efforts.

School Improvement Plans Update – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Each principal briefly presented the elements of each of the school improvement plans with objectives, personnel responsible, action steps, and timelines.

Budget Process Update – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch reviewed the FY '17 Budget Timeline that began on November 4th. The first presentation to the School Committee will be on January 4th. Final vote by the Committee will be on January 25th. Dr. Baeta encouraged the administrators to request what they feel is necessary to meet the educational needs of their schools.

Other:

- Dr. Baeta discussed the future of statewide testing, and that the Commissioner of Education would be making his recommendation. A formal vote will be taken on November 17th. The three options are MCAS, PARCC, or MCAS 2.0.
- Special Town Meeting on December 9th at NMS, 6:30 PM
- Dr. Baeta was asked for his opinion regarding the proposed commercial development of the lot next to Yelle School. He felt that possible issues such as traffic volume, backups, and walkers, need clarification.
- Dr. Baeta thanked all who attended this evening and also thanked all the veterans for their service.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Next Meeting Date: November 23, 2015 at Norton Middle School, 6:30 PM

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- School Improvement Plans
- FY '17 Budget Timeline

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem

Andrew Mackie, Chairman

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

Valerie Desmond

Daniel Sheedy

Margaret Werner